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## A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL COLLEGE AT KINGSTON DURING THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE.\*

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Washington Irving begins his Knickerbocker History of New York with the creation of the world. We shall, however, not attempt such a flight of the imagination but shall confine ourselves to a very much later period of time. But the history of the Medical College is so intimately bound up with that of Queen's College—the beginning of both being due to the same order of circumstances, and being participated in largely by the same prominent men—that we should enter at some length into the early history of Queen's. And as the latter ranks amongst the earliest colleges to be established in Canada, it will be necessary, in order to understand the circumstances which gave rise to Queen's as well as to the Medical College, to know something of the educational condition of this country at the time when, and immediately before, these Institutions came into existence.

Queen's College first opened her doors in the year 1842 in a small frame house on Colborne street in the city of Kingston. The author of this sketch was then but six years old, and his only justification for this endeavor is that he has belonged to the Institution, as student and graduate and teacher, and that, as far as he is aware, he has been, for the past half century and over, more intimately connected with it than any other person now living. The Medical faculty, with which the author was also closely connected for 14 years, was established in the year 1854.

Seventy-four years is but a short period in the history of any old and established country but it is a period which may be fraught with very momentous changes in a new and progressive one. And the past seventy-four years have probably,

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if not certainly, seen more and greater changes in the character of human thought and speculation, and more progress in human discovery and invention than any other equal period of time in the whole history of civilization.

Within the past seventy-four years the great doctrine of evolution—a doctrine that has profoundly modified the whole forefront of human knowledge—has been logically presented and satisfactorily established. And there is no department of human knowledge, speculative or scientific, which has not felt its broadening influence. Some of the sciences, as Geology, Biology, and the far-reaching subject of Medical Bacteriology may almost be said to have had their real beginning during the past 74 years, while such things as the electric light, the telegraph, the marconigraph, the telephone, the talking machine, the cinematograph, and others, which have given us a new fairyland of wonders, are products of the last 74 years.

It is a thoroughly practicable matter at the present day to establish a new and quite fully supplied university in a few years, as we see exemplified in Saskatchewan and Alberta and British Columbia, but such was not the case when Ontario—or Upper Canada as it was then called—was a new and sparsely settled country, and when the great Northwest was an unknown wilderness.

The inhabitants of Upper Canada, especially of that part of it in the vicinity of Kingston, and along the north shore of Lake Ontario, came mainly from two sources — the newly-formed United States of America, and the British Islands.

The United Empire Loyalists, as the former were commonly called, were those colonial subjects of Great Britain, who, refusing to throw in their lot with the newly-formed Republic at the close of the revolutionary war, in 1776, were compelled to leave their former homes and seek new ones in the wild and wooded country north of the great lakes and the St. Lawrence River—many went, also, to the Maritime provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. These people had no exalted idea of education or of educational institutions, as these things were not well developed in the country whence

they came; and any ideas they had could develop but slowly in a country where the physical conditions of acquiring a mere living were so hard and exacting. The incoming immigrants from the British Islands were in a different condition as they came from a home-land where higher educational institutions had long been established. However, in their case, even, the higher education was mostly confined to the higher classes of the people, while the education of the middle and lower classes was poorly and somewhat unsystematically provided for. And as it was mostly the latter two classes that came to Canada, their advent did not much improve matters in an educational way. But enough of the higher and educated class did come to leaven the whole and to produce an effect in due time.

And thus it was that the educational system of Upper Canada from 75 to 80 years ago was a poor thing indeed. And when we consider the completeness and comparative fullness of the highly organized system which we have in this year of 1916, we have much reason to feel not only satisfied but proud of what we have accomplished in three-quarters of a century.

Seventy-five years ago the writer was a small boy five years old who lived on a farm some eighteen miles from the city of Kingston. The surrounding country was wild and largely forested, and it was not an unusual thing to hear the howling of wolves during the cold wintry nights.

The facilities for acquiring an education, even a very elementary one, were decidedly poor, although they cannot be said to have been wholly neglected. The country school was not carried on under any fixed system, as there was in those days really no fixed system. When a school was to be opened some interested person—it might even be the intended teacher—went around amongst the people of the district and solicited contributions towards opening a school for a certain length of time, it might be for three or six months or for the whole year, although there was usually no school during the harvest time, when children could be usefully employed in the fields, or in the wintry season of deep snow and unbeaten roads. The country school house was usually built of logs, and was sup-



plied with a large stove for winter use, and with long desks and benches reaching nearly from wall to wall. No fine seats and individual desks with drawer and patent ink-wells and other conveniences graced the school houses of 75 years ago. Everything was rough and ready, and everybody managed to get along with as many inconveniences and as few conveniences as possible. Teachers required no certificate of qualification, and no machinery was in existence through which such certificates could be obtained if required. Any one who could read, and write a fair hand and work a little arithmetic was deemed qualified to teach—and these were certainly the days when the three Rs were the acme of a country school education.

The teacher offered much variation in character. In a certain country school some of the teachers which still dwell in the writer's memory were: 1, a Miss Young, a sister of Brigham Young of Mormon fame, although whether she ever became a Mormon or not I do not know; 2, an old Irish pensioner who had lost one leg in his country's wars, who could speak English with a brogue, write a fine hand, swear by Gough's Arithmetic of which he had a limited knowledge, and who knew nothing of such subjects as Grammar, Geography, History, etc., but who was quite popular with his pupils; 3, a man who was said to have been educated for the Roman Catholic priesthood but who had looked too long upon the wine when it was red, and who overindulged himself on Sunday and gave the boys a holiday on Monday afternoon while he was pulling himself together again—for the Lord's Day Alliance was not heard of, and prohibition was not one of the things considered in Upper Canada in those days; and others more or less of like character, and some of them morally satisfactory although limited in educational requirements. And yet the foundation, and in some cases the most of the education received by some of the strongest men in the progressive movements of the country was acquired in these schools.

This is a fair description of the country school of long ago. Those in towns and cities were undoubtedly better, but the

best schools in the city of Kingston at the time were private ones, kept by men like Hopkins, Mills, etc.

At this stage we have another element to take into consideration. The two great Churches of England and Scotland, naturally desiring to take charge of the religious development of the young and growing Canada, sent out clergymen of their respective denominations to attend to the spiritual needs of their respective adherents. These two churches had for a very long time stood for an educated clergy. That is to say that the candidate for the ministry was required to take a considerable amount of instruction in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Philosophy, Logic, and some other secular subjects before entering upon the study of theology. And the presence of men thus trained and of other educated emigrants from the motherland, slowly but gradually brought about a change in regard to educational matters. As it was quite impracticable to bring all the clergy, connected with these two churches, from the British Isles, the necessity became evident of establishing institutions of higher education in Canada. In 1826 the Provincial Government of Upper Canada sent Archdeacon Strachan, a strong Anglican and a member of the House, to England, where he succeeded in getting not only a new charter for King's College at York (Toronto), but also a grant from the crown for £1000 annually for its support. This college was to be open to all students without restrictions, but with the peculiar one-sided arrangement that its government should be controlled by the Church of England. As the majority of the people were not members or supporters of the Anglican communion, this arrangement met with powerful opposition, and created such turmoil amongst the different denominations as to imperil the existence of the proposed new college. Various amendments were made to the charter from time to time in attempts to satisfy the demands of the different denominations, and a proposal was once made to grant £100 a year to the Presbyterian Church for a Theological Department in connection with the proposed King's College. All such arrangements, however, fell through, and King's College failed to



materialize. Weary with waiting, the Methodist church established the Upper Canada Academy at Cobourg, which some years afterwards, was developed into Victoria College.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church, seeing no hope of an early opening of the proposed King's College, slowly came to the conclusion that they must, for their own convenience, institute a college capable of furnishing a sufficient course in higher education to satisfy the demands of the church. A provincial act of incorporation was at first obtained, but this was subsequently set aside and a Royal Charter was secured dating from 1841. Owing to unavoidable delays, however, the college did not open its doors for the reception of students until the 7th day of March in the year 1842, and thus for only a part of a session in this year.

The first Principal and Professor of Theology was Rev. Thomas Liddell, D.D., who remained only a few years, and Rev. P. C. Campbell of Brockville, who was Professor of Classics and who afterwards became Principal of Aberdeen University in Scotland. Of the students, one matriculant came from the city of Kingston. George Bell came from Perth, accomplishing one day's journey by sleigh and the second one by wagon. John McKinnon, Angus McColl, Thomas Wardrope, Robert Wallace, and Lachlan McPherson hired a wagon in Toronto and drove to Kingston, being five days on the way.

The opening of the first college in Upper Canada was a momentous event, and was looked forward to with much interest. For it must be remembered that Queen's was the first chartered institution, having university powers, to open its doors in Upper Canada.

A Senate, formed of the Principal, the one Professor, Campbell, and three Trustees were on hand in the little house on Colborne street to receive and welcome the students and such of the citizens as came to take part in the ceremonies. After an address by the Principal, the examination for matriculation began, at which eleven candidates presented themselves, amongst which was J. B. Mowat, so long and well known afterwards as a Theological Professor in Queen's.

After this first partial session the college moved to a house on Queen street opposite St. Andrew's church, and its staff was increased by the appointment of Rev. Doctor Williamson to the chair of Mathematics and Physics. It was at this stage that Sir Richard Bonnycastle, on having the building pointed out to him by the Principal, said that it was the *rummest* college he ever saw, and undoubtedly he was right. But it is not well to despise the day of small things.

The following is a copy of the public notice of the first meeting and opening of Queen's:—

NOTICE  
QUEEN'S COLLEGE  
KINGSTON

It is hereby publicly intimated that the first session of Queen's College, Kingston, will be opened on the first Monday of March next, and that the Professors who have been appointed will begin to teach classes for the following branches of study:

LATIN AND GREEK  
MATHEMATICS  
AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY  
LOGIC AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY  
*Theology, Church History and  
Oriental Languages.*

It is particularly requested that those who, for some time past, may have been expecting, according to previous announcements, an earlier opening of the first session, and which has been prevented by circumstances over which neither the Trustees nor the Professors have had any control, will lose no time, after the appearance of this advertisement, in intimating their intention to enroll themselves as students. Communications from students or their friends as to enrolment may be made either personally or in writing, previous to the day of commencement, to Alexander Pringle, Esq., secretary to the Trustees of Queen's College, Kingston, who will also give in-



formation as to the probable duration of the first session of college.

THOMAS LIDDELL, D.D.,  
*Principal.*

Kingston, 5th January, 1842.

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The foregoing outline sketch of the causes which led to the establishment of Queen's is necessary to an intelligent understanding of the origin of the Medical College. For if there had been no Queen's College, no person would have thought of opening a medical college in a city of the size of Kingston at that time, for a medical school is usually established only in connection with some institution possessing university powers.

Now, medicine is a profession, and upon its practical side a very complex profession of such a nature as to have very little in common with the subjects of education usually considered in schools and colleges which do not specialize on medicine. So that 75 years ago the great majority of educated physicians were not, and could not be, produced in Canada, but were graduates or licentiates from British or other schools. For, strange as it may appear, the great Republic to the south of us was, until comparatively recent times, much behind Canada in its appreciation of the importance of having thoroughly trained men to minister to the needs of the sick and the diseased. And even the great Horace Greely, at his time, and in his influential paper, the *New York Tribune*, advocated the free practice of medicine.

But the old country physicians who found their way to Canada were not always those of superior qualifications, and those who did come were mostly absorbed by the cities and large towns, as practice in a new and sparsely populated country district was by no means the most desirable position for an educated physician. The country service was thus left largely in the hands of quacks, or men and women who, without any systematic training, acquired some efficiency in dealing with the commoner diseases through the study of various popular works on medicine, and through practice.



In using the word *quack* there is no intention to speak in any way disparagingly or disrespectfully of these men and women. For many of them were hardworking, painstaking, and faithful in attendance upon their patients. If they failed they did so through want of expert knowledge, and they were generally loved and respected throughout the sections of country in which they practised.

Of course, this state of affairs could not be a permanent one, but only a passing phase in the development of the country.

The Medical College, or the Medical Faculty of Queen's, as it was at first called, was not the first medical school in the country to open its doors to students. At the time of instituting the Medical Faculty of Queen's there were already Rolph's School of Medicine in Toronto, which then had no power of granting degrees, and later became the medical department of Victoria College, and Trinity Medical School attached to Trinity College in Toronto. In Quebec, or Lower Canada, as it was then called, there was the Medical Department of McGill College at Montreal. Trinity College being sectarian and strongly Anglican would bestow the degree of M.D. on no student except such as were members of the Anglican communion, or would subscribe to the thirty-nine articles of the Church of England. All other medical students were compelled to go to McGill if they wished a Canadian degree, and thus the action of Trinity tended to build up McGill Medical College at the expense of Upper Canada.

Under this condition of affairs it was thought by Hon. John Macdonald—later Sir John A. Macdonald—and Rev. Prof. Williamson that there was a call for a medical college in Upper Canada that should be free from all religious tests and open to students of all creeds and nationalities, and that Kingston offered a favorable situation for such a college. These gentlemen accordingly called a meeting of the medical men of Kingston to whom they propounded their scheme.

It was then and there agreed to establish a medical school at Kingston in connection with Queen's University, and the

following medical men were appointed to form its first staff of Professors:—Dr. Sampson took the chair of Clinical Medicine and Surgery, and was President of the school; Dr. John Stuart, the chair of Anatomy and Physiology; Dr. John R. Dickson, that of Surgery; Dr. H. Yates, that of Medicine; Dr. O. Strange, that of Materia Medica; and Dr. Hayward, that of Midwifery. Dr. Strange, however, for reasons best known to himself, resigned almost immediately, and Dr. Fife Fowler took his place.

Twenty-three students were registered in the first session, 1854-5; 47 in the second session; over 50 in the third session, and 64 in the fourth, thus showing that the school filled a veritable need. Such success in a new medical school excited violent opposition at both Toronto and Montreal, and in the *Medical Chronicle* desperate attempts were made to depreciate the character of the instruction given at the new school, and to dissuade students from attending it. The cudgels in defence were taken up by Dr. Stuart, a forceful and able writer, who successfully refuted every charge made by his opponents, and this discussion had the effect not of injuring the school, but of making it better known throughout the country, and thus of increasing the number of students in attendance. And thus it came about that the enemies of the school were, in a sense, hoist by their own petard, as the number of students registered for the session 1860-61 was 97.

Dr. Hayward retired after the first session, and his place was filled by Dr. Litchfield in the subjects of Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence, he being assisted in the latter subject by Alexander Campbell, who later became Sir Alexander Campbell. In 1860, through a change in the Medical Act, which made it illegal for any one Professor to teach more than one subject, Dr. Litchfield resigned that of Midwifery, and Dr. M. Lavell was appointed to the chair. No regular professor was appointed to the chair of Chemistry and until the year 1858 the subject was taught by Prof. Williamson of the Arts faculty, until he was relieved by the appointment of Dr. Lawson.



After a first few years of comparative quiet the history of Queen's and her medical faculty was a very chequered one indeed. Difficulties of a serious kind, one after another, and over which she appeared helpless to exercise any control, seemed to threaten, not only her usefulness, but even her existence. And naturally circumstances which affect the head of an institution must, to a greater or less extent, affect all the departments.

When Queen's was founded she had the good-will and support of all the Presbyterians of the country, and was virtually the college of the Presbyterian Church of Upper Canada. But after a single year of this unity an unfortunate split took place in Scotland in 1843 as to whether a church was justified in receiving government aid for its maintenance. After much quarrelling and mutual recrimination, the party holding the negative view separated from the Auld Kirk and took to itself the name of the Free Church of Scotland, while the other party still retained the name of the Kirk of Scotland.

Such a quarrel and its results might, or might not, be justifiable in Scotland, but it is difficult to find words to express the folly of bringing such a quarrel into a country like Upper Canada, where no church has ever received, or is likely to receive a cent of state aid. And yet with hot-headed Scotch obstinacy the trouble was brought into the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and so bitter and intense did the quarrel become that some students who had begun their course in Queen's, cast her off to finish their courses in a Free Church theological college established in Toronto. Truly there is no quarrel like that of the *odium theologicum*.

This reduced the Presbyterian constituency of Queen's to less than one-half, and accordingly reduced the number of her students, and as she retained her allegiance to the Kirk of Scotland, under whose fostering care she was established and partly supported, the animosity of the Free Church party showed itself for many years, in the very few young men of that party who came to Queen's. This was partly offset by the fact that as Queen's exacted no religious tests from her stud-

ents, she drew them, more or less, from all denominations, and from all classes amongst the people.

Of course, these matters did not materially affect the Medical Faculty which was not opened until eleven years after, but no doubt it affected the number of Free Church medical students coming to Queen's even after eleven years had passed away.

Queen's, in the course of her peregrinations, at first moved to more commodious quarters on William street, and finally to its resting place on the campus where it is situated to-day. Its quarters here, at first, were somewhat restricted in respect to both building and campus. The building had been some years before erected as a Deanery or residence for Archdeacon Stewart of the Anglican Church in Kingston, and is at present known as the "residences." The structure called the "old medical building," but consisting of only two stories, was built, ostensibly at least, for the Medical Faculty. Such was the state of affairs about the beginning of the session 1863-4.

Queen's at this time, although not denominational in the sense of requiring any religious test from students, was in another sense denominational inasmuch as all its professors and trustees were required to subscribe to the Westminster confession of faith; and the college was moreover under the control of the old Presbyterian Church in Scotland and in Canada. But these statements do not apply to the Medical department.

It was natural then to select its professors from amongst the educated in Scotland. Unfortunately, two such men, one a professor of Classics and the other a professor in Theology, brought with them from their mother country an undying feud founded upon charges of an unmentionable scandal by one of the parties against the other. Thus was an apple of discord thrown into the institution well calculated to destroy the peace hitherto prevailing. The result was far-reaching. One of the men voluntarily left the college, while the other was forced out only after much contention and several lawsuits.



But the worst feature was that the professors, the students, and even the men of the Medical department, more or less took sides in the quarrel and thus divided all parties concerned into two opposing factions. The Principal at the time, Rev. Dr. Leitch, who was troubled with a weak heart, passed away during the turmoil and worry, and Dr. Snodgrass of Montreal was appointed to succeed him.

Of course, a college, like a human being, may recover from a serious wound, but the recovery is slower and more difficult when one wound is succeeded by another in close succession. Somewhere about this time the prospective King's College of Toronto was taken over by the Government as the Provincial University and all sectarian tests and sectarian forms of control were abolished. And around the new Provincial institution, as a centre, have, from time to time, been built up the various sectarian schools of the province, namely: the Free Church Presbyterian, or Knox College; the Roman Catholic, or St. Michael's; the Anglican, or Wycliffe and Trinity; the Methodist, or Victoria; and some others. And a movement was launched some years ago to have Queen's and the Baptist college to add their strength to the galaxy surrounding the Provincial university, but it fell through. The establishment of the Provincial institution gave the opportunity, and under the leadership of John Sanfield McDonald, the government passed a bill ordering that henceforth no denominational institution should receive state aid. How well this has been carried out in all cases must be left for others to determine.

Up to the time of the passing of this Bill, Queen's with the Medical College and some other institutions had been receiving small money grants from the Provincial government, and the sudden stoppage of these without previous notice, or any time for consideration or preparation, was felt very severely. This was in the year 1868 or thereabouts. Although the way in which the government aid was withdrawn was, in the opinion of the writer, unstatesmanlike and illogical, yet the final result was probably good for the country at large. For it prevented a number of mushroom sectarian undertak-

ings from browsing upon the government preserves, and it taught Queen's the valuable lesson that as long as she chose to remain under the control of a particular church organization, she must learn to depend upon her own resources.

It must be admitted, however, that this movement did not wholly settle the problem of sectarian education, for the Provincial university is as much under the influence of sectarianism as any university in the world.

About the same time Queen's suffered a heavy financial loss in the failure of the Commercial Bank, and all these blows, coming so soon after one another, came near to wrecking the institution.

The number of students in Arts and Theology fell off to such an extent that while there were only two students in the final year in Arts, and only six in the junior year, a certain professor in Theology sat for one or more hours daily, throughout a whole session, upon one side of the class-room stove, discussing Hebrew roots and paradigms with a single student upon the other side.

The cry went forth, even from old but not very loyal graduates, "What is a university without students?" and it became a serious question with the Trustees as to what should or could be done under so difficult a situation. The question was referred to a meeting of Queen's constituents and friends and supporters, held in St. Andrew's Church at Kingston, as to whether an effort should be made to keep the college alive, or it should be allowed to die a quiet death. Happily, for the benefit of education and the country, the better advice prevailed, and it was determined that no efforts should be spared to keep Queen's alive and to make her strong and vigorous. And the endowment scheme launched by the two men, ever to be remembered in Queen's, Snodgrass and McKerras, was a noble beginning in the carrying out of this determination.

The Medical College did not pass through this maelstrom of difficulties unscathed. For besides losing the annual government grant of \$1000 which it had enjoyed since its beginning, it was afflicted by internal troubles from which it suf-



ferred sorely. For reasons not necessary to mention bitter and unfriendly, if not inimical, feelings developed between two hot-headed members of the faculty, and between these and the Trustees, which brought in trouble and turmoil where all had formerly been unity and peace. Three of the staff, Stuart, Dickson, and Lawson, resigned, although Dickson afterwards reconsidered his resignation and returned to the chair of Surgery, until he finally accepted the position of Medical Superintendent of Rockwood Asylum. His position in the school was filled by McLean and later by Sullivan. Stuart's chair was divided, Kennedy taking Anatomy, and Octave Yates Physiology. And Lawson's place was filled by the appointment of Robert Bell, C.E., and later by N. F. Dupuis.

However, there was no considerable reduction in the number of medical students, which was probably due to the fact that the Medical College was not under the full control of the Trustees, and was not dependent upon them for funds from which to defray current expenses. And as the number of students in medicine at this time was greater than that in both Arts and Theology, a certain medical professor, in a rather bombastic speech, thought that he had found a solution of all difficulties when he proposed that the Medical College might take the university under its protecting wing. The speaker evidently did not know or, in his enthusiasm, did not stop to consider, that without an institution with university powers as a head, it would be quite impossible to keep up for any length of time, a medical school in a city of the size of Kingston.

Owing to the want of harmony which developed between the medical men and the Trustee Board, it was thought by many that things might run more smoothly if the Medical School had no connection with the University except through affiliation for the purpose of granting degrees in medicine. After some opposition this was brought about. A charter for the new medical school was applied for and obtained under the high sounding name of "The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons" at Kingston. The men who chose this designa-

tion must have been of the opinion that there is something in a name.

This separation, however, was a theoretical rather than a practical one, as the Medical School was never a faculty of Queen's in the true sense of that term, and things seemed to move along very much as they did before.

This old and yet new medical college was then affiliated with Queen's for the purpose of having degrees conferred—as it had no university powers of its own—as well as for the purpose of getting assistance from some members of Queen's staff. Some of the British educated professors in the new college were not graduates, but licentiates from a British school. So that an important thing to be done was to confer the degree of *Medicinae Doctor* upon these men. This, which to outsiders may appear to be a very irregular proceeding, was in itself perfectly correct. For the Doctor's degree was, and is still, conferred by the best British schools only upon men who have distinguished themselves in their profession, and not on every one who attains a certain examinational standard, as is the case at present in Canada and the United States. And these men could not, in any other way, acquire the academic designation which they were supposed to confer on all their worthy students.

The constitution of the R.C.P.S.K., as it was usually designated, was not, however, a happy one. An institution without a definite head, where every man concerned in its success is a law to himself, is, in general, too ultra-democratic in principle to succeed unless under the control of men of marked administrative ability. Moreover, when a Professor's income from his professional duties depends solely upon the number of students in attendance upon his classes, the tendency, whether followed or not, is to give more attention to the getting and keeping of students, than to the exaction of a high standard of excellence in the examinations.

To a very great degree this tendency was held in check by the establishment of the Ontario Medical Council a few years later. For, although the degree of Doctor of Medicine



was to be obtained from college examinations, the license to practice medicine in Ontario depended upon the candidate's ability to pass the examination set by the Council, an examination common to all who wished to pursue medical practice in the province.

The Medical Council had the means of doing good work, and it undoubtedly did some good work for the profession in arranging a common medical curriculum for all the colleges in the Province, and in endeavoring to keep up a proper standard of excellence in the examinations. But, like many other bodies, when in control of too much power, it sometimes manifested a tendency to become unduly arbitrary. In appointing examiners it appeared, at times, to be more or less jealous of the men in the colleges, and too much inclined to prefer old practitioners in medicine to those actually engaged in teaching.

Now, it is possible that a teacher, acting as an examiner, might show some favor to his own students if he were sufficiently dishonest to do so. Such a probability, however, is a very remote one, and it is better to assume that any one, worthy of being appointed an examiner, is honest, until he is proved to be otherwise. On the other hand, the appointment, as examiner, of an old practitioner who has in all probability never taught in a medical school, or, if so, at some remote period, is fraught with one of two difficulties—either that his question papers are antiquated in form and not along the most modern lines of knowledge, or that the paper consists largely of catch-questions taken from books, and better calculated to enhance the reputation of the examiner than to test the candidate's knowledge of the subject. As the writer was for 14 years a teacher in a medical school, he believes that he knows whereof he writes in this connection, as it was from 40 to 45 years ago.

Again, a college with the constitution of the R.C.P.S.K., at that time would naturally have a tendency to be over-lenient with its students so as to attract and hold all that it reasonably could accommodate, and thus to defer overmuch to the wishes, sometimes none too reasonable, of certain classes of

students. In fact, the college that could resist such influences must have had in itself an element of strength; and that the R.C.P.S.K. was pretty pronounced in such resistance is shown by the large number of successful men that it sent up to the Council examinations in these early days. Some of these men are still with us in this year of grace 1916, men who are prominent in both their professions and the affairs of their country. So we may rest assured that the men who controlled the institution 40 years ago were as anxious as men now are to place the merits of a good sound education above those of mere profit or expediency.

It may be acceptable to the reader to have short descriptions of the prominent men who controlled the fortunes of the R.C.P.S.K. in these olden times, and whom the writer knew well.

Dr. John Stuart was a tall, spare son of Scotland of fine appearance who claimed some relationship with the Royal line. He prided himself on wearing a Stuart plaid instead of the plebeian overcoat. He never married. He was a good teacher and a kind but somewhat strict Professor. In later years, after he had left the college, he fell into the besetting sin of meddling in politics, and, at his own expense ran repeatedly—in fact whenever there was an opening—for the mayorship of the city, and for membership in the House of Commons, but never succeeded in being elected to either. His passion for politics impoverished him, whereas if he had left politics alone he might have ended his days in affluence, for he was an able practitioner who commanded the confidence of his patients. He was a comparatively well educated man, honest, outspoken, and witty.

A good story is told of an occasion when he was brought into court as a witness in an accident where a horse was killed on the street, and where the Doctor was an innocent spectator. A certain little pernicky lawyer, thinking to have some fun at the Doctor's expense, called out in his questioning: "Dr. Stuart, Dr. Stuart! did you ever dissect a horse?" After sniffing, which he always did when displeased, the Doctor replied:



“No, I never dissected a horse, but if you’d die I’d d——d soon dissect an ass.” It is unnecessary to say that the little lawyer was completely squelched. Dr. Stuart at one time published a small newspaper, called the *Argus*, which was a sort of free-lance, and contained much wit and many good things.

Dr. John R. Dickson was born in County Tyrone, in Ireland, in 1819. He was a Presbyterian in religion and a pronounced Conservative in politics. He was of a healthy florid countenance, quick in action and speech, and somewhat dictatorial and impulsive in temperament. He was much liked by his friends, but like everyone who steps outside the limits of his own profession to busy himself with politics, he had bitter enemies. After some years’ service as Professor he resigned to become Medical Superintendent of Rockwood Asylum. His work in his new sphere was largely given to ameliorating the life-conditions of the insane, and this course he followed until he became the victim of some failure in the proper functioning of the brain, to which he finally succumbed.

Dr. Horatio Yates came of a medical family, as his father, Dr. William Yates, was an eminent physician in Derbyshire, England. The son came to Kingston at 12 years of age, and at the age of 17 was articled to Dr. Sampson as a medical student. He took his degree in medicine in Philadelphia in 1842, and about a year afterwards settled down as one of Kingston’s physicians. He was a scholarly man who had read a great deal outside of his profession, and who was very much interested in science and its problems. He was accordingly an interesting conversationalist, and a very instructive teacher. He was for many years one of the leading physicians of Kingston and one of the prominent men in general affairs. But he was never narrow or bigoted in either religion or politics, a man whom everybody liked, and one whose life seemed to flow along in an uneventful stream to the end.

Dr. Fife Fowler was born in the town of Elgin in the north of Scotland, and received his medical education principally at Aberdeen, where he had the good fortune to be a student under the celebrated Doctor Pirie. Fowler came to King-

ston in 1854, and very soon after was appointed to the chair relinquished by Strange, who accepted the appointment, but almost immediately resigned. Dr. Fowler was a quiet man who loved his home and his family, and who was satisfied to attend to his own business, and to leave outside matters alone. In religion he was a strict Presbyterian. In respect to character he was honest and straight-forward, a man of conscientious views, a kind friend but not a talkative one. In fact, his conversation seemed to be somewhat stilted, and it was said by some that his lectures were dry rather than interesting. But, remembering that his subject was *Materia Medica*, we can well understand why the lectures should be so characterized. Dr. Fowler was for many years Secretary-Treasurer and Dean of the College and he always discharged his duties in the most satisfactory manner.

This sketch of the founders of the Medical School would not be complete if it did not mention the well-known name of the Rev. Dr. Williamson, better known to the students under the pseudonym of "Billie," and Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Queen's College. Although somewhat absent-minded, and at times making laughable mistakes, he was nevertheless a man of extensive erudition, beloved by everyone who knew him, and one of the dearest personalities in the world. Among his other labors, which were many, he entered heartily into the inception of the new Medical College, and for a number of years found time to take charge of its Chemical department.

Other Professors, mostly Canadian graduates, who were not amongst the founders of the school, but who came into it later, though many years ago, and whose names are now (1916) merely memories, are:—

Dr. Donald McLean, who was educated in Scotland, but whose family had taken up a home in Kingston. After a few years in the Medical School he left to become Professor of Surgery at Ann Arbor, in Michigan. From there he moved to Detroit, where he became an eminent surgeon. Here he died



some years ago. Dr. McLean was a man of great brilliancy, fearless and expert in his operations.

Dr. Michael Sullivan, already mentioned, who occupied the chair of Surgery until incapacitated by age and poor health. He was of the Roman Catholic faith and a strong Conservative in politics. During a good part of his life he was a Senator of the Dominion. He was a ready and fluent speaker, jovial and witty and popular with his students.

Dr. Michael Lavell, who succeeded Litchfield in the chair of Obstetrics, held the position until he was appointed to the Wardenship of the Provincial Penitentiary at Portsmouth. A Methodist in his church connection, he exercised a strong influence in the Methodist Councils. He was a fluent but somewhat slow speaker, a good clear lecturer and one of the strong supports of the college.

Dr. Octave Yates, a brother of Horatio, was a genial and genteel man, rather an indifferent teacher and possessing no very distinctive characteristics of which the writer has any definite knowledge.

Dr. Thomas R. Dupuis, who taught at first Medical Botany and later Anatomy, was a man of more than average ability as a physician, a writer, a poet, and a clear logical speaker. He was for a while a member of the city council, a circumstance that carries with it a very uncertain recommendation. For he afterwards ran for school trustee and was defeated by a man who could not sign his own name nor construct an English sentence correctly.

Possibly a few other names might be included in this category.

In the year 1869 the R.C.P.S.K. was subjected to the most trying conditions that it was ever called upon to pass through—conditions that seriously threatened to close its doors forever. As already stated, the classes in Arts and Theology were held in the building originally built for Archdeacon Stewart, while the medical classes were conducted in the building erected for the former medical faculty. Now, in order to provide residence accommodation for their then present, and

their future Principals, the Board of Trustees of Queen's resolved to turn the building, occupied by Queen's classes, into three residences, the central one to be occupied by the Principal, and the wings by two of the university professors. In order to find accommodation for the displaced Queen's classes no way was available except the taking over of the Medical building and thus turning the Medical College and its staff into the street. And this was done.

It would puzzle any man with common-sense ideas of right and wrong to understand how a body of seemingly intelligent men, who had the interests of education or of the country at heart, could, for so trivial a cause, commit such an outrage upon a sister, and, to some extent, a dependent institution. Of course, Queen's was, at that time, in very poor circumstances, and its future outlook was far from encouraging. But to weigh the convenience and comfort of a few professors—even though one was a Principal—against the future existence or death of a necessary educational institution can be characterised only as an act of incomprehensible folly. The first issue was a poor and selfish one, at the best, while the second involved all the possibilities in which the Medical College has since made good. And he would be a very short-sighted person indeed who should propose to-day (1916) that Queen's should extinguish her Medical Faculty.

The Trustees of those days were evidently men with no vision of the future, and with views correspondingly narrowed. They were, by necessity of the conditions of Queen's, all adherents of one church organization, and one-half of them or more were clergymen in that church, and they failed to see anything beyond the present needs of that church. The great majority of them have, however, gone to their reward, and so we may let them rest in peace. But what was to become of the ejected Medical College? That was the question confronting every friend of the institution, and especially its staff of Professors. And it was a question that required a speedy answer, as the note of ejectment came too late in the season to allow much time for consideration.



The writer, who was a member of the staff at the time, with Dr. Lavell and a few other bold hearts, held a meeting at which it was expressed as a general opinion that if the Medical College should then close its doors, they would never be opened again, and that for all time to come Kingston and Eastern Ontario would be without a medical school; whereas, if the life of the institution could be tided over this very critical period, the future might open up new possibilities and new means of taking advantage of them.

So it was resolved that whatever might be in the future, the school should not die if the efforts of the staff could keep it alive. This being settled, the building now used as a House of Industry, nearly two miles from Queen's, was rented for the approaching winter and hastily put into some kind of order for the reception of classes.

It will be understood that while some subjects may be taught quite successfully in any commodious room, there are others which require a laboratory of some kind and apparatus, and that a subject of this latter kind necessarily fared badly, inasmuch as the Medical College moved out of its former home empty-handed. However, the first session, and the only one in these makeshift quarters, was a sort of tentative one to determine how things were likely to turn out. And it was extremely satisfactory, to those most concerned, to find that there was no lack of students to comfortably fill the accommodation. And some of the writer's best friends amongst the old medical men of to-day (1916) were students in that makeshift session.

But this darkest hour, before the approach of the dawn of brighter things, came at length to an end. The next session saw the college located in the old Commercial Bank building near the foot of Princess street, and about a mile from Queen's campus. This new home contained conveniences which it was quite impossible to have in the House of Industry building, such as running water, gas, light, well-fitted class rooms, dissecting room, experimental tables, etc.

In this building the College was housed for a number of years, until the coming of Principal Grant and the erection of

the new Arts building, now used as the Theological Hall. The classes in Arts and Theology were then transferred to this new and commodious structure; and the Medical College, grown stronger and more confident in its own ability after its strenuous trials, returned, for the last time we hope, to its former home on the campus. There may it live and flourish in the years to come, growing stronger in its courses of instruction, stronger in the number of its students, and stronger in its influence throughout the country in which lie its opportunities.